

State Water Resources Control Board California Environmental Protection Agency



Water pollution prevention while recreating and/or attending community events outdoors

• Outdoor Community Events

When possible carpool to events (rain and gravity eventually cause air pollution to become water pollution), or use mass transit, and emphasize local sites to reduce travel distances when you need to use a private vehicle. If pets are present at the events, clean up any animal wastes and dispose of them properly.

As much as possible, reuse materials at outdoor events. When organizing or scheduling an outdoor event, carefully consider convenient and practical reuses of any new material you may be planning to purchase. Purchase only materials which can be conveniently reused, if possible.

After any community event is over, repackage materials carefully to make reuse the preferred option later. Recycle whatever you can that is not reusable. Take your time cleaning up and repackaging. Always carry out and/or cleanup more than you carried in if possible, by cleaning up after others as well as your own group.

As part of preparing scheduling , and



attending community events outdoors, always plan to and

dispose of your garbage into recycling or trash cans, and clean up after people who don't do so. Many parks provide recycle bins throughout the recreational area. Use these also if they are provided and not overflowing. Otherwise, take your recyclables home to be recycled or otherwise properly disposed of if recycling is not possible at the site.

• Recreation Outdoors

When camping, try to set the camping sites at least 200 feet away from the edge of a river, stream, or lake to avoid contributing to water pollution. Use sanitary facilities when provided. If these are not available, bury personal bodily wastes at least 200 feet from water, six to eight inches deep. This is to avoid rain runoff from contributing to nearby water pollution.

• Outdoor events

• Recreation outdoors



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• Recreation Outdoors (Continued)

➤ **Always follow the 'Leave no Trace' principles, whether you are camping or not:**

- **Plan ahead & be prepared**

Avoid crowded conditions in natural areas, come prepared for the expected weather, & use maps.

- **Travel & camp on durable surfaces (such as gravel, asphalt, & snow)**



Camp at least 200 feet from lakes & streams; used established areas in much visited sites. In pristine areas, disperse your use to leave no camp traces.

- **Minimize any campfire impacts**

Keep fires small, only in permitted areas, thoroughly put them out, and scatter the cooled ashes afterwards.

- **Dispose of all waste properly**

Pack it in, & pack it out. Take out all trash when you leave an area, even that that preceded your visit.



Deposit human waste in sanitary facilities, or in six to eight inch deep 'catholes' 200 feet from water.

- **Leave what you find in the environment (don't 'collect')**

Leave all natural & cultural or historic items discovered; & don't construct trenches or structures using branches or other natural materials.



- **Respect wildlife**

Don't disturb wildlife during sensitive times such as in the winter, when nesting and/or mating, or when raising young; & control your pets at all times or leave them home.

- **Be considerate of other human visitors**



Let nature's sounds prevail, avoid speaking loudly or yelling. If possible, camp a distance from others.

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• Recreation Outdoors (continued)

Read more detail on the principles of **'Leave no Trace'** at:

<http://www.lnt.org/TeachingLNT/LNTEnglish.php>



Increase the healthy exercise you can get by using human powered recreational boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, rafts and paddles), bicycles, skates, and other non-motorized transportation and/or sports equipment. For all power boats and jet skis, be sure there are no gas or oil leaks. Reducing motorized emissions reduces water pollution as well as air pollution.

Always try to leave an outdoor recreation area cleaner than you found it. Carry out others' trash and recycling as well as your own. Also, you can check with local groups to seek volunteer opportunities for park clean ups. Again always reduce, reuse, and recycle materials whenever possible.



Questions and Comments:

For more information on the state's Nonpoint Source Program, please visit:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/index.html>